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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/085,046	03/01/2002	Kiyofumi Sakaguchi	03500.010530.5	7805

5514 7590 01/26/2005

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EXAMINER

FOURSON III, GEORGE R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2823

DATE MAILED: 01/26/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

H-1

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/085,046	Applicant(s) SAKAGUCHI ET AL.	
	Examiner George Fourson	Art Unit 2823	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 2 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 November 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☒ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 74-77, 79-107 and 109-159 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 103, 104, 124-126, 137-142 and 156 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 84, 86, 109, 134, 143, 144, 158 and 159 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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In response to applicant's request for clarification regarding the basis of the restriction requirement. The allowable linking claims link the species I and II and do not link the inventions directed to methods to those directed to devices. Furthermore, each application is treated on its own merits and valid reasons for restriction have been stated in the requirement for restriction.

Claims 134,143,158 and 159 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate of claim 75 as stated in the office action mailed 6/8/04.

In response to applicant's argument that the claims appear in other U.S. patents, each application stands on its own merits and no comment is made hereby regarding the validity of particular patented claims.

Claims 109,144 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate of claim 79 as stated in the office action mailed 6/8/04.

In response to applicant's argument that the claims appear in other U.S. patents, each application stands on its own merits and no comment is made hereby regarding the validity of particular patented claims.

Claims 81,84 and 86are objected to because of the following informalities: In claims 81,84 and 86, there is no antecedent basis for "step" because plural steps are present in claim 79, i.e. at two current densities.

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In view of applicant's response, in claims 96 and 120, the use of "flexible" and "rigid" is seen to be merely a label, synonymous with "first" for example.

Applicant is directed to section 41.202 (attached) related to procedure for suggesting an interference which is a new section.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to George Fourson whose telephone number is (571) 272-1860. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Olik Chaudhuri, can be reached on (571) 272-1855. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



George Fourson
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2823

GFourson
January 24, 2005